NOTES OF ART AND ARTISTS

"HIMSELF."

Forty-two cartoons and fourteen caricatures by Felix Mahony constitute the exhibition which opened in the Corcoran Gallery of Art last Monday. The collection is shown in the special exhibition gallery and makes an impressive display. The cartoons in black and white, matted but not framed, make a single line on the semicircular wall, while on the flat wall are exhibited the fourteen caricatures, all of which are in color and of local artists.

The first impression the visitor receives is of strength, force and individuality, for the work has these distinguishing characteristics. It has, furthermore, a directness and decorative quality which are notable and attractive. It is in these particulars that American illustrative work so often lacks, and for this reason so frequently fails to carry conviction. Mr. Mahony is evidently well trained as a draftsman and he uses his line effectively and well. His work is bold, but trenchant; his utterance is concise, but to the point. Like the best of political cartoonists, he knows how to provoke a smile, but he also knows how to stir emotion. While some of his drawings are distinctly humorous, others are distinctly pathetic and appealing—deliberately intended to arouse interest and evoke sympathy. All of his drawings look as if they had been easily done, and this in itself is a token of mastery.

The caricatures are perhaps more subtle and even more engaging. Not only do they exaggerate the characteristic features of those caricatured, but they also render the subtle personality which is so elusive, but so very distinguishing. These caricatures represent exclusively local artists and they are not only capital likenesses, but genuine characterizations. Among those so pictured are the late E. F. Andrews, as students of the Corcoran School remember him, smilingly and yet affectionately; the late James Henry Moser, with his big moustache and his inexhaustible boyish enthusiams; E. C. Messer, with all his large kindliness; Richard N. Brooke, with keen critical sense and earnest manner; Felix Mahony, himself; C. K. Berryman, his colleague; Michel Jacobs, his friend and associate; Alexis B. Many, Frank Moss, George Gibbs, Spencer Nichols, U. S. J. Dunbar—not to mention all. These are in flat color, drawn with a brush and swiftly washed in. They should certainly be preserved not only on account of their artistic quality, but as historical record; they are quite inimitable.

The exhibition will continue for another week, until October 16. It is free to the public, as are all other parts of the Corcoran Gallery of Art on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and on Sunday afternoons.

* * *

The Washington Society of the Fine Arts has this week announced its lecture courses for the coming season. The members' course will comprise six lectures on the fine arts to be given on Wednesday evenings in the auditorium of the National Museum.

The dates, subjects and lectures will be: November 15, "Mural Paintings in France and America," by Kenyon Cox, the well known mural painter, lecturer and writer on art. This is one of a series of lectures given at Yale last year, and it will be illustrated by stereopticon slides. December 13, "Schools of Painting," by Cecilia Beaux, the distinguished portrait painter, a lecture prepared for and delivered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art last winter, and of engaging interest. January 24, "Why Worry With Art?" by H. Granville Barker, playwright and producer, whose ideas on the theater have gone far toward the establishment of higher ideals in the realm of dramatic art. February 14, "Tolstoi's Theory of the Fine Arts as Illustrated by Current Fiction and Poetry," by Bliss Perry, for many years editor of the Atlantic Monthly and the leading authority on literature in this country. March 14, "Scandinavian Art," by Christian Brinton, well known as an art critic and especially well informed on this subject, which he will present with numerous stereopticon illustrations. April 11, "Chinese Art," by John Calvin Ferguson, who has for many years resided in China and held high official positions, both under the Chinese and the United States governments, one of the foremost authorities today on the subject upon which he will speak and of which he has made a special study.

In addition to this course there will be two on "House Furnishing and Decoration" by Frank Alvah Parsons, one on Friday mornings in the auditorium at Woodward & Lothrop's, and the other in the evenings of the same days in the auditorium at the National Museum. Both will be illustrated with materials and stereopticon slides, and the opening date will be January 12. This arrangement is made in order to accommodate, if possible, all the people who wish to hear Mr. Parsons, the seats at the museum last season proving altogether inadequate for the purpose. The courses will not be identical.

The fourth lecture course announced by the society will consist of five lecture recitals on "The Most Modern Songs," to be given by Nicholas Douty of Philadelphia, in the auditorium of the National Museum Monday evenings, November 6, December 4, January 8, February 5 and March 12. The subjects will be (1) "Italian and Spanish Songs;" (2) "Russian and Finnish;" (3) "French;" (4) "German, Austrian, Bohemian," (5) English and American." It is the belief of the officers of the Washington Society of the Fine Arts that the fundamental principles underlying all the fine arts and their appreciation are the same, and the knowledge of music is not only an aid to a knowledge of painting, sculpture and architecture, but art itself.

During the winter the society proposes to hold several special meetings—one in particular for the consideration of civic art, with special reference to Washington. Under its auspices it is hoped to arrange for a special recital, to be given by Mrs. Edward MacDowell, wife of the composer, who will at the same time give some account of the splendid work being done by the MacDowell Association at Peterboro, N. H. Plans are also being made for a series of organ recitals on late afternoons at one of the largest churches, having an excellent organ, that the public may have the best music and without charge. The success, in appreciation and attendance, of such a course, given in a previous season, under the auspices of the society, induces a repetition along the same lines.

* * *

Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock the Arts Club will be formally opened with a reception, music and dancing. This club is located at 2017 I street in an old house owned for many years by Prof. Abbe of the weather bureau, the first official scientific forecaster, but which in the early days of Washington was occupied by Monroe during Madison's administration and before he, himself, became President. In fact, there is a story that at the time of the burning of Washington, in August, 1814, Madison and Monroe galloped up Pennsylvania avenue, side by side, when the British invaded, and, being in great haste, rode right through this house, stooping beneath the door frame and passing out over the hills to Kalorama.

In any event, the house is old, commodious and designed on generous lines—an excellent old-fashioned home, suitably proportioned for club purposes. It presents, with white outside shutters on the first floor, a hospital appearance, and it is said that wonders have been done within by way of decorating and furnishing.

The club is intended as a meeting place and center. There will be assembly rooms and a library. On the upper floors some studios have been rented, but there will be some rooms for non-resident guests and sufficient for the members' uses. Tea will be served and perhaps after a time luncheon if the demand is sufficient. There is space for exhibitions, receptions and musicals. The president is H. K. Bush-Brown, the sculptor, W. H. Windom is corresponding secretary.

* * *

Mention was made last week in these columns of two recent changes in the personnel of the national commission of fine arts. Since then an additional change has been announced. Mr. Bilbert of New York, architect of the Woolworth building and other notable skyscrapers, having retired, the President has appointed Mr. Kendall, architect, in his place. Mr. Kendall has been for years a member of the firm of McKim, Mead & White, which may be accredited with some of the finest work done in this country. A meeting of the commission was held in this city on Friday, at which the new members for the first time took their seats.

* * *

There has been held in Buffalo during the past summer under the direction of Miss Cornelia B. Sage at the Albright Gallery a most notable exhibition of sculpture by American artists. About 800 examples were shown, of which at least half came from the Panama-Pacific exposition. The other half was assembled under the direction of the National Sculpture Society, of which Herbert Adams is president.

The sculpture was arranged not only inside the Albright Gallery, but in the adjacent park and grounds, which gave unique and very suitable setting. It is sometimes thought that sculpture makes a less direct and emotional appeal than painting, but certainly the interest shown in this exhibition discredited the conviction.

From June 17, when the exhibition opened, to July 16, its exhibition was visited by almost 62,000 persons, and as the weeks passed attendance increased rather than diminished. In fact, no exhibition previously held has compared with it in attendance. Now arrangements are being made to transfer a large portion, if not all, the exhibit to Chicago, to be shown in the Art Institute there, and later sections will likely go to Cleveland and Detroit.

This is the kind of exhibition that should come here. With the National Gallery and the Corcoran Gallery and our beautiful parks, we could give it the finest possible setting, and many would see it in Washington who would not see it elsewhere. Besides, it is an enterprise commensurate with national purpose. It would be a great thing for Washington could it come to pass, as well as for American sculpture.

* * *

A number of Washington artists were represented in a summer exhibition of artist members' works held at the National Arts Club, New York, from June to October. Everett Warner was represented by no less than seven paintings, Hobart Nichols showed four, as did also Miss Eva Springer. Among other artists represented were Birge Harrison, Robert Vonnoh, Henry Hubbell and Irving R. Wiles.

* * *

Miss Lydia Bush-Brown spent the greater part of the summer at Wyoming, N. Y., teaching costume designing, stenciling and block printing in a unique school conducted by Mrs. Cooley Ward of Chicago, for "children from three to ninety," as the announcement naively stated. The classes were conducted out of doors and, under necessity, in the village hall and in the public library. The courses were all most alluring and included many phases of art, such as toy-making, bird-painting, dancing and pageantry.

* * *

William H. Holmes, curator of the National Gallery of Art, left Washington last week to make a tour of some of the midwestern art museums and to spend a few days in Detroit in some expert work for the Detroit Art Museum.

Mr. Holmes has spent the entire summer at his home near Rockville, and has during the long days and part holiday season done quite a little painting. A picture by Mr. Holmes' exhibited at Poland Springs, Me., in the art gallery, wherein are regularly set forth notable summer exhibitions, attracted considerable attention and called forth warm expressions of appreciation from William Howe Downes of the Boston Transcript, one of our most astute American art critics.

LEILA MECHLIN.

Ginger.

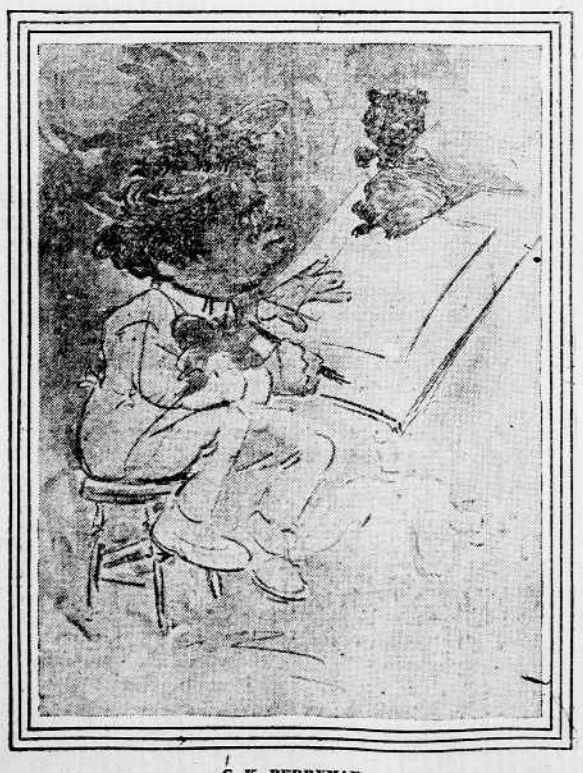
From the London Chronicle.

Ginger, now lending its name to certain political groups, is too often regarded merely as a sweetmeat or flavoring, whereas it really possesses valuable medicinal properties. Besides being a splendid aid to digestion, it is an aromatic stimulant of considerable power, and when chewed is said to relieve toothache and facial rheumatism. Ginger was the basis of the once-famous Portland powder for the cure of gout, and a poultice of ground ginger and warm water will often relieve a headache.

Nobody Loves a Fat Man.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

The high waist line is to feature men's styles, the tailors say. The fat man may as well give up trying to be fashionable.



C. K. BERRYMAN.

A NEW RACE OF AMERICANS.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

The buried homes of a new race of Americans have been unearthed in Socorro county, N. M., by Dr. Walter Hough of the National Museum, in this city.

Although the bones, tools, bits of pottery and other remnants which he obtained have not yet been thoroughly studied, his opinion that these people must be distinct from any other known race is generally accepted.

In the corner of Socorro county where this discovery was made there are a number of ruins of stone dwellings, which were doubtless built by the early Pueblo Indians. Dr. Hough was engaged in digging about one of these some years ago when he observed that the excavation took the form of a great circular pit, which had evidently been made long before, and gradually filled with leaf, mold and earth. Then came other discoveries. Bits of charred wood, the bones of animals and pieces of pottery came to light. It became apparent that this circular excavation had once been the home of men.

Now the Pueblos always have used a sort of oblong dug-out as a sacred council chamber, and Dr. Hough realized that this might be merely one of those structures, but there were a number of points of difference which made him believe that he had really come across something new.

To an anthropologist there is nothing more thrilling than to find a trace of what may prove to be a discovery of genuine scientific importance. Dr. Hough had to return to the museum and his duties at that time, but he remembered that suggestive pit and returned to the region at the first opportunity, which was last summer.

Roaming about the pine-clad hills, he came upon a place where the vegetation seemed to grow more thickly over a small circular area. He knew that it must be another of the strange pits. And then he perceived that there were other circles of greenness all about—in fact, a whole village of them!

Straightway he began excavations on a large scale, and gradually, from one frijle after another, built up an imaginative conception of the people who had dwelt in these pits, certainly centuries, perhaps thousands, of years before.

The site of the village was a gently sloping, pine-clad ridge, 7,000 feet above sea level. Charred bits of wood showed that each of the pits had been surrounded by a stockade about four feet high, and bits of clay clinging to some of the timbers proved that the whole had been roofed with logs covered by a thick layer of mud. Thus, the scientist could reconstruct for his imagination this whole village of circular dwellings, half above ground, half below, and probably entered through a hole in the roof.

* * *

Near each of the houses was a smaller one that had evidently been used as a granary or storehouse, and in the center of the village was the most impressive work of all. It was a circular pit, ninety feet in diameter and not yet completely filled, with a bottom fifty feet wide, and a bench or step running all the way around half way between top and bottom—in a word, a complete and perfect amphitheater, differing only in size and material from the Roman Coliseum and the Yale bowl.

Circular Pit Shows Perfect Amphitheater.

This discovery banished the last doubt about the permanence of the village. Undoubtedly the people who made this great arena, in which to hold their games and dances, intended to occupy their village for a long time. It was no temporary hunting camp.

This being determined, the significance of the discovery lay in the fact that the mode of life of the people, so far as these remnants revealed them, in no way resembled those of the native Pueblo stock. In times gone by many legends have been built up about the ancient inhabitants of the southwest, and one by one these have been exploded. When the ruined stone dwellings under the eaves of great cliffs at Rito de los Frijoles, N. M., and Mesa Verde, Col., first began to attract attention they were widely exploited by various writers with more journalistic sense than scientific knowledge as the dwellings of a tiny race of "cliff dwellers." The small size of the race was determined solely by the fact that the doors were very low.

Now careful investigations by Bandelier and other men from our bureau of ethnology have proved conclusively that all of these interesting ruins were inhabited by the Pueblos in an earlier day, when inaccessible cliff dwellings with small doors were necessary for defensive purposes against the Apaches and Navajos. In a word, the polite buck from whom you bought a water jar or turquoise from the window of a Pullman at Las Vegas or Albuquerque was a lineal descendant of the so-called cliff dwellers.

Every attempt to prove that this country was inhabited by an older race before the Indians has met with the same kind of rude defeat at the hands of scientific investigation. The mound builders of the Ohio valley and Arkansas, supposed by early writers to have been an ancient and wonderful race, were proved to have been the same Indians that inhabited that region a few years ago.

* * *

This discovery by Dr. Hough bids fair to create one more such legend, and upon a good deal more substantial grounds. The "pit dwellings" which he has discovered bear absolutely no resemblance to any of the other ruins of that region, all of which were built either from stone or adobe brick. Furthermore, these pit dwellers lived up in the mountains at an elevation of seven thousand feet, where they had permanent villages; while the Pueblo stock of that region has lived in the valleys and cultivated the soil since time immemorial. It would have been impossible to raise at that altitude the grain which was the main dependence of the valley dwellers. These pit dwellers must have lived mainly by hunting, and this surmise is borne out by the discovery about their dwellings of numerous bones of elk, deer, rabbit and other indigenous animals. They probably eked out this fare with the pinon, or fruit of the nut pine, and with mescal gathered on the plains below.

Dr. Hough's Discovery May Create a Legend.

This endows them with another peculiarity, for almost always hunting peoples are nomads and have moved from camp to camp, while permanent villages were built only by the agricultural peoples. These pit dwellers, however, seem to have been a hunting people who had a permanent home.

The one way to determine this matter definitely would be by the discovery of a complete adult skull. All grades of development and races of men are differentiated by the details of their cranial construction. If these people had skulls of the usual flat Pueblo type, they were undoubtedly Pueblos, living in an unusual way. If their skulls are round, it is probable that a new race has been discovered and a new chapter added to the little-known history of pre-Columbian America.

That the pit dwellers antedated the Pueblos is very strongly indicated by the fact that an ancient Pueblo ruin was found built on top of one of their pits. It may well be that they belonged to a very ancient race which lived in America thousands of years ago, before the American Indians appeared there; that they were driven into their mountain haunts by the invaders and perished in the struggle with a hostile environment.

Meantime, Dr. Hough must postpone until the next field season his search for the necessary skull. This year he found no burrying ground, except one which had been used only for the bodies of children, and their gelatinous little bones had almost completely decayed. So the identity of the pit dwellers must remain a mystery for another year, at least.

An electric plate warmer that can be kept on a dining table is a novelty.

Chinooks in Merrimack.

From the Haverhill Gazette.

Four years from now the Merrimack river ought to be so chock full of salmon that it will be difficult to navigate a boat in the river. The reason is that nearly 400,000 young chinook salmon that were released last spring by the commission on fisheries and game are slowly making their way down the Shawsheen river north of Andover to the Merrimack river, and out to sea, and four years from next fall these same salmon, then developed into large fish, will return to the same fresh water in which they were released, for breeding. Where they go or what they do in the meantime will be an unanswered question, but true to the habits of their species, they will return after four years.

Last spring the young fish were released in holding ponds into which fresh water flowed from Graham's pond. Recently ponds lower down the stream were cleared of pickerel and other large fish so that the salmon, now from 3½ to 4½ inches long, might not become the prey of the larger fish, and at the same time have plenty of natural food.

The outlet to the salt water is now open, and the little fellows are slowly making their way down stream. The arrival of cold weather will quicken the instinct of these small fish to hasten their course out into the ocean.

None of these fish has been marked with minute metal tags as has sometimes been done on the Pacific coast for purposes of identification on return, for they will be the only chinook salmon on this coast, and consequently there will be no uncertainty in identifying them.

"I hear you got hit by an automobile," he remarked.

"Yessah," replied Uncle Rastus, "thank ye kindly, sah—but yistd'y the ole mewel kicked me, sah, an' I'm feelin' mo' lak m'self."—Judge.